



- Everyone says that forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive. *H. W. Longfellow*

- Forgiveness doesn't make the other person right. It makes you free. *Stormie Omartian*

Matthew 6... The Lord's prayer

vs. 12 – When I ask God to forgive me, I am IMPLYING that I value forgiveness and therefore would extend forgiveness to anyone when it is requested of me.

vs. 14-15 – God's forgiveness is offered to all but only applied to those who request forgiveness in sincerity. That sincerity is proven or disproven by my **response** to **humans** who seek my forgiveness.

God understands and sympathizes with the
DIFFICULTY (emotions) of forgiveness.

- He is not put off by my anger/disgust.
- However, he analyzes my desire
and effort to actually forgive.

MY QUESTION: Have I
overcome/eliminated all **negative**
emotions?

GOD'S QUESTION: Do you **want** to
forgive? Do you **seek** that outcome?

LOGIC of Forgiveness

There is no LOGIC by which a willful trespass **deserves** to be ignored or disregarded.

Eph. 4:32 “...just as in Christ God
forgave you.”

Col. 3:13 “...as the Lord forgave you.”

There is great logic in saying, “Since God extends forgiveness to me, God would expect to extend forgiveness through me.”

Truly I say to you, whatever you BIND on earth will be [lit: will already have been] bound in heaven, and whatever you LOOSE on earth will be loosed in heaven. *Matthew 18:18*

When someone has met the conditions of forgiveness, you have the **right** (authority) to declare God's forgiveness to them and the **responsibility** to show them forgiveness yourself.

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FORGIVE
SOMEONE?**

1. Turn them loose from the punishment of my wrath or revenge.
2. Leave or abandon the incident.

GOAL OF FORGIVENESS?

To be like God who shows
goodness/mercy to unrighteous folks
as well as righteous.

To avoid the power of [the perpetrator's]
evil **pulling** me **into** its misery.

Do not repay evil for evil... as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone... do not take revenge... heap burning coals on his head.. **do not be overcome with evil...** overcome evil with good (*Romans 12:17-21*).